



Tennessee Valley Authority Fisheries Funding

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander and leaders from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced a multi-agency agreement to provide long-term funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for trout production and stocking in TVA dam tailwaters and reservoirs in Tennessee and Georgia.

USFWS



Erwin National Fish Hatchery, Erwin, Tennessee

The Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) joined Sen. Alexander and TVA officials for an announcement that ensures popular trout stocking programs in the region will continue beyond 2016, when a temporary TVA funding arrangement reached in 2013 is due to expire.

The agreement supports continued TVA reservoir and tailwater stocking of non-native trout that are raised at three federal fish hatcheries: Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, Tennessee; Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery in Celina, Tennessee, and Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery in Suches, Georgia.

With the help of a working group of key stakeholders, the agencies developed a plan to collectively fund future trout hatchery operations at current levels in the following manner:

USFWS



Fishing Rodeo at Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery

TVA will provide base funding for the trout stocked; Fish and Wildlife Service will fund infrastructure and maintenance costs at the hatcheries, and the state agencies will take care of costs to distribute and monitor the fish.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was directed by Congress and the Office

of Management and Budget to seek reimbursement for its trout production at these and other hatcheries across the nation in this era of challenging federal budgets. The Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration are also providing funds for stocking at their respective facilities.

The federal trout raised in Tennessee and Georgia are provided to TWRA and GADNR for stocking in the colder water of the reservoirs and tailwaters of the TVA dams. TVA supports the stocking programs by enhancing the aquatic habitat through oxygenation systems, foregoing electric generation and providing minimum water flows to

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

help maintain cooler water temperatures. However, in most of the waters the trout cannot naturally reproduce, requiring regular stocking to maintain fishable populations. Through this hatchery funding agreement, trout will continue to be stocked for recreational fishing in reservoirs or tailwaters at 13 TVA dams in Tennessee and Georgia:

- Apalachia Dam on the Hiwassee River;
- Blue Ridge Dam on the Toccoa River;
- Boone Dam on the South Fork Holston River;
- Cherokee Dam on the Holston River;
- Ft. Patrick Henry Dam on the South Fork Holston River;
- Normandy Dam on the Duck River;
- Norris Dam on the Clinch River;
- Ocoee Dam No. 1 on the Ocoee River;

- South Holston Dam on the South Fork Holston River;
- Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River;
- Tims Ford Dam on the Elk River;
- Watauga Dam on the Watauga River;
- Wilbur Dam on the Watauga River.

By the Numbers	
1.13 million	Number of fish produced and stocked below TVA dams in 2014
Nearly 500,000	Number of angler days supported by these hatcheries
\$45 million	Economic activity generated
\$73	Every dollar spent on fish production and stocking at these hatcheries generates \$73 in overall economic impact.

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